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PROGRAMME PLANNING

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Jorge OSELLA (Argentina)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 18 September 1992, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its forty-seventh session the item entitled "Programme planning" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee, on the understanding that each programme of the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 would be submitted to a plenary meeting or to the appropriate Main Committee for review.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 13th to 17th, 19th, 20th, 24th, 28th to 31st, 36th and 50th meetings, held between 26 October, and 19 December 1992. Statements and observations made in the course of the discussion of this item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/47/SR.13-17, 19, 20, 24, 28-31, 36 and 50).

3. At its 13th meeting, on 26 October, the Committee heard statements by the Chairman of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Acting Controller.

4. For its consideration of the item, the Fifth Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its thirty-second session (A/47/16 (Parts I and II) and Add.1); 1/

1/ To be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/47/16).

(b) Programme budget implications arising from the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (A/47/16/Add.1 and 2);

(c) Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6); 2/

(d) Note by the Chairman of the Fifth Committee containing the views of the General Assembly and its Main Committees on the relevant portions of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 submitted to the General Assembly and its Main Committees (A/C.5/47/46 and Add.1 and 2);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1990-1991 (A/47/159 and Add.1);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on programme evaluation in the United Nations: assessment of evaluation activities and proposals for strengthening the role of evaluation (A/47/116).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.5/47/L.18

5. At its 50th meeting, on 19 December the Chairman introduced draft resolution A/C.5/47/L.18, which had been elaborated following informal consultations held under the chairmanship of Mr. Jorge Duhalt (Mexico).

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/47/L.18 without a vote (see para. 7).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

7. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Programme planning

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 37/234 of December 1982, 41/213 of 19 December 1986, 42/211 of 21 December 1987, 43/219 of 21 December 1988, 44/194 of 21 December 1989, 45/253 of 21 December 1990 and 46/189 of 20 December 1991,

Having examined the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, 3/

2/ To be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/47/6).

3/ A/47/6.

Having considered the note by the Chairman of the Fifth Committee 4/ reporting on the review of the revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 by the other Main Committees of the General Assembly,

Having also considered the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its thirty-second session, 5/ the report of the Committee on Conferences 6/ and the oral report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, 7/

Having further considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1990-1991 8/ and on the assessment of evaluation activities and proposals for strengthening the role of evaluation; 9/

I

MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997

1. Adopts the Secretary-General's proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 as amended by the recommendations of the Second Committee, 10/ the Committee for Programme and Coordination 5/ and the Committee on Conferences 6/ and the additional conclusions contained in the annex to the present resolution;

2. Takes note of the views of the other Main Committees of the General Assembly 4/ and the observations made by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

3. Reaffirms that the medium-term plan is the principal policy directive of the United Nations and shall serve as the framework for the formulation of the biennial programme budgets;

4. Emphasizes the importance of the contribution of the sectoral, regional and central intergovernmental bodies, in particular the Main

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4/ A/C.5/47/46 and Add.1 and 2.

5/ A/47/16 (Parts I and II) and Add.1.

6/ A/47/32 and Add.1 (to be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 32).

7/ See A/C.5/47/SR.36.

8/ A/47/159 and Add.1.

9/ A/47/116.

10/ A/C.5/47/46.

Committees of the General Assembly, in reviewing and improving the quality of the plan and its revisions;

5. Regrets that there are still considerable practical problems which limit the availability of such contributions;

6. Calls upon intergovernmental bodies to take appropriate measures to ensure their active participation in the review of the medium-term plan and its revisions;

7. Endorses the recommendation of the Committee for Programme and Coordination that a prototype of a possible new format of the medium-term plan should be presented to the Committee at its thirty-third session;

8. Endorses also the recommendation of the Committee for Programme and Coordination that an ad hoc technical seminar of experts should be convened in the field of programme planning of the United Nations, without additional cost to the Organization, to assist the Secretariat in the drafting of the prototype of the new format of the medium-term plan;

9. Decides that the prototype, as recommended by the Committee, should take into account the relevant conclusions of the seminar on the prototype of a new budget document and address, in particular, issues concerning the manageability of the drafting and revision process, including the questions of preparation and submission of documentation and the review of programme planning documents by subsidiary intergovernmental machinery;

10. Expresses its concern at the negative impact of late issuance of documentation on the in-depth review of the revisions to the medium-term plan and endorses the related recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination as contained in the report of its thirty-second session; 11/

11. Recommends that, within the framework of the review of the format and structure of the medium-term plan, the seminar give particular attention to ensuring the timeliness of the provision of documentation;

II

PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE REPORT

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1990-1991; 8/

2. Endorses the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination 12/ on the report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1990-1991;

11/ A/47/16 (Part I), para. 37, and A/47/16 (Part II), paras. 10-12.

12/ A/47/16 (Part I), paras. 37-44.

3. Requests the Secretary-General to reflect the improvements proposed in his report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session 13/ in the programme performance report for the biennium 1992-1993;

III

PROGRAMME EVALUATION IN THE UNITED NATIONS

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the assessment of evaluation activities and proposals for strengthening the role of evaluation; 9/

2. Endorses the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-second session on this item and urges the Secretary-General to improve the methodology for self-evaluation;

IV

COORDINATION

1. Emphasizes the need for enhanced coordination in the United Nations system and welcomes the intention of the Secretary-General, as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, to assign a high priority to coordination and to work with the executive heads of the organizations of the system to develop new approaches for collaboration with the purpose of improving the effectiveness and efficiency of coordination;

2. Endorses the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, at its thirty-second session, on the annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1991; 14/

3. Endorses also the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-second session on the report of the Secretary-General on the System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development and invites the Secretary-General:

(a) To launch, at the earliest possible time, the System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development and the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s;

(b) To call upon all the relevant executive heads of the United Nations agencies and bodies to accord high priority to the implementation of the Plan and to use the Plan as guidelines for their activities related to African development;

13/ A/46/173.

14/ E/1992/11 and Add.1 and 2.

4. Takes note of the preparation of the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 1996-2001 and the amendments proposed to the plan by the Committee for Programme and Coordination;

5. Takes note of the decision of the Committee for Programme and Coordination to propose to the Administrative Committee on Coordination that the twenty-seventh series of the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination should discuss the results of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and their implications for the United Nations system;

V

OTHER MATTERS

1. Recalls its resolutions 46/185 B and 46/189 of 20 December 1991 in which it endorsed the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-first session 15/ to establish a system of responsibility and accountability of programme managers of the United Nations;

2. Endorses the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination in paragraphs 44 (Part I) and 245 (Part II) of its report 5/ and invites the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session on the establishment of such a system.

Annex

CONCLUSIONS ON REVISIONS TO THE MAJOR PROGRAMMES, PROGRAMMES AND SUBPROGRAMMES OF THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997

Programme 1. Good offices and peacemaking, peace-keeping, research and the collection of information

Endorses the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination contained in paragraphs 30 and 31 of its report (A/47/16 (Part II)) and invites the Secretary-General to take into account the decisions of the General Assembly on preventive diplomacy and related matters in the implementation of this programme.

Insert the word "international" before the words "peace and security" in the fourth line of the new subparagraph (b) and in the second line of the new subparagraph (i) of paragraph 1.21.

15/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/46/16).

Programme 2. Political and Security Council affairs

Retain the title "Political and Security Council affairs" for the programme.

Programme 4. Special political questions, trusteeship and decolonization

Subprogramme 4: Enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections

Replace new paragraph 4.37 with the following:

"The legislative mandate of the subprogramme is provided by the General Assembly in resolution 46/137 of 17 December 1991 and its implementation will be carried out in the context of resolution 47/.... [A/C.3/47/L.61] and resolution 47/.... [A/C.3/47/L.69] and in full coordination with programme 35, Promotion and protection of human rights."

At the end of new paragraph 4.39 delete the words "and provide development assistance".

Programme 6. Elimination of apartheid

Delete the word "consensus" in the new paragraph 6.2 and replace the words "the consensus" by the word "related" in the new paragraph 6.36 (a).

Programme 7. Disarmament

In new paragraph 7.9, second sentence, the word "énfasis" should replace the word "prioridades" in the revisions to the programme in the Spanish version.

Programme 13. Trade and development

Delete paragraph 13.30.

The following subprogrammes should be designated high priority:

Subprogrammes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 11.

Subprogramme 1: International competition and trade policies

Paragraph 13.34 (c)

At the end of the paragraph delete the words "ensuring transparency and defining consultation procedures".

Paragraph 13.35 (d)

Replace the paragraph by the following:

"(d) Enhancing knowledge of restrictive business practices and encouraging the elimination of those practices which adversely affect international trade, particularly that of developing countries and the economic development of those countries."

Subprogramme 2: Commodities

Paragraph 13.41 (d)

In the first line after "diversification", insert the words "and crop substitution".

Paragraph 13.41 (g)

In the third line, after "sustainable development", insert a semicolon and delete the rest of the text ("including on such possible ... commodity production and processing").

Subprogramme 3: Development finance and debt

Paragraph 13.45 (g)

In the second line, after "debt", insert "management and".

Subprogramme 4: Investment and technology

Paragraph 13.49 (b)

At the beginning of the paragraph, replace the words "Formulation and adoption of" by the words "Analysis and advice on".

Paragraph 13.50 (h)

Replace the paragraph by the following:

"(h) Consider whether there is the convergence of views of Governments on a Code of Conduct on the Transfer of Technology necessary to reach agreement on all outstanding issues. If there is convergence of views, contribute to further work on the Code;".

Add a new paragraph 13.50 (i)

"(i) Analyse challenges and opportunities for transfer of technology to and from countries undergoing transition processes to a market economy".

Subprogramme 5: Poverty alleviation

Paragraph 13.53 (b))

At the end of the paragraph, add: "and the participation of the poor and vulnerable groups in development".

Paragraph 13.53 (d)

In the second line, after "development programmes", insert the word "particularly".

In the second line, replace the word "particularly" by "especially".

Subprogramme 6: Economic cooperation among developing countries

Paragraph 13.62 (a)

In the second and third lines, delete the words "both" and "developed and".

Subprogramme 7: Global interdependence: the international trading, monetary and financial systems; international implications of macroeconomic policies

Paragraph 13.66 (b)

In the first line, replace the word "study" by "consider".

Paragraph 13.67 (b)

Replace the existing text by the following:

"(b) Study trends in the international trading, monetary and financial systems with a view to identifying the coherence of these systems and alternative responses required to ensure good macroeconomic management at the global level and adequate coordination and surveillance of national policies".

Subprogramme 8: Enlarged economic spaces, regional integration processes and systematic issues of international trade

Paragraphs 13.70 (c) and (d)

Replace both paragraphs by the following:

"(c) Contribute to the promotion of regional and subregional economic integration, particularly among developing countries, as a complementary means of strengthening the trade liberalization process in order to facilitate, in a timely way, the smooth and equitable integration of all countries into the international trading system".

Subprogramme 9: Privatization, entrepreneurship and competitiveness

Paragraph 13.77 (a)

In the second line, delete the word "appropriate".

Paragraph 13.78 (c)

In the second line, replace the word "and" by "and/or".

Add a new paragraph 13.78 (j)

"(j) Provide support for the presentation of national programmes and plans for privatization."

Subprogramme 10: Domestic reforms and resource mobilization

Paragraph 13.80

At the end of the first line, delete the word "developing".

Paragraph 13.82 (a)

Place a semicolon at the end of the second line, after the words "reforms needed".

At the end of the second line, delete the word "and".

At the end of the paragraph, add the following "and measures and mechanisms for effective mobilization of domestic financial resources".

Paragraph 13.82 (b)

In the third line, replace the words "generation of additional finance for sustainable development" by the words "of increasing the availability of development finance".

Subprogramme 11: Environment and sustainable development

Paragraph 13.88 (a)

In the second line, replace the word "coexistence" by "coherence and complementarity".

Paragraph 13.88 (c)

In the first line, after the words "developing countries with", insert "new and".

Subprogramme 12: Data management

Paragraph 13.96 (d)

In the first line, after the word "assistance", insert "particularly".

Programme 14. Trade expansion, export promotion and service sector development

Delete paragraph 14.13.

Subprogrammes 1, 3 and 4 should be accorded high priority.

Subprogramme 1: Structural adjustment and trading opportunities

Paragraph 14.16 (f)

In the seventh line, before "increase", insert "the encouragement of preference-giving countries to consider an".

Paragraph 14.16 (g)

In the second and third lines, replace "in Central and Eastern Europe" by "in transition".

Paragraph 14.17 (g)

In the third line, replace "of Central and Eastern Europe" by "in transition".

Paragraph 14.18 (j)

In the first line, after "increasing", insert "where possible,".

Paragraph 14.18 (k)

In the third line, replace "of Central and Eastern Europe" by "in transition".

Subprogramme 3: Trade efficiency

Paragraph 14.30 (i)

Replace the paragraph by the following:

"(i) Undertake research and development of new automatic data-processing systems such as ASYCUDA for use at the country level".

Subprogramme 4: Service development

Paragraph 14.33 (b)

In the first line, after the word "Examine", insert the words "ways of overcoming".

Paragraph 14.34 (b)

In the first line, replace "Formulating policies to strengthen" by "Elaboration of policies aimed at strengthening".

In the third line, replace "to increase" by "increasing".

Paragraph 14.34 (g)

At the beginning of the paragraph, insert "Elaboration of policies aimed at".

Paragraph 14.35 (a)

In the second line, insert a semicolon after "services"; delete "including"; replace "overcoming" by "to overcome" and "improving" by "to improve".

At the end of the paragraph, after the word "markets", add the following:

", including through analysis of relevant restrictive business practices".

Subprogramme 5: Shipping, ports and multimodal transport

Paragraph 14.37

Replace the paragraph by the following:

"Most of world trade is carried on ocean transport and many developing countries have put priority on participating in this sector. Given the growing interdependence among the service sectors, their efforts to develop competitive shipping sectors may be facilitated by increasing their capacity to cope with rapidly changing structural and technological developments in improving the efficiency of their maritime and multimodal transport and related services and infrastructure facilities."

Paragraph 14.41 (a)

In the second line, after the words "the participation", insert the words "in particular".

Paragraph 14.41 (c)

Replace the words "fields of" by "development of competitive" and after the word "transport" insert the word "services".

Paragraph 14.41 (e)

Replace the first two lines of the paragraph by the following:

"Promote the development of port services, in particular through heightened awareness of technological improvements and measures which may enhance the".

Paragraph 14.41 (g)

In the second line, insert after the words "with a view" and, between commas, the words "inter alia".

Paragraph 14.42 (a)

Replace the paragraph by the following:

"(a) Preparing comparative analyses of national shipping policies, including such strategies and options as privatization, commercialization or possible elimination of State shipping companies, and their impact on the establishment of a national institutional environment aimed at fostering competitive shipping services, fleet development, service quality and increased trade, and reducing the technological gap;"

Paragraph 14.42 (c)

Replace the paragraph by the following:

"(c) Promoting a balance of interests between users and providers of shipping services, with particular regard to encouraging regular consultations among them;"

Paragraph 14.42 (d)

In the fourth line, replace the word "application" by the words "by increasing awareness".

In the last line of the paragraph, replace the word "transport" by the word "shipping".

Paragraph 14.42 (f)

Replace the paragraph by the following:

"(f) Monitoring structural changes in multimodal transport supply services, including multimodal sea/air services; promoting the use of international multimodal transport operations and the development of transport technologies, including the application of the agreed modal rules for container tariffs as well as UNCTAD/ICC standard form and modal provisions for multimodal transport documents and the use of transport-related information technologies such as EDI and the Advance Cargo Information System (ACIS);"

Paragraph 14.42 (g)

Replace the paragraph by the following:

"(g) Encouraging a better understanding of the utilization of the latest techniques and developments in multimodal transport and physical distribution management and disseminating such knowledge to countries in need thereof;"

Paragraph 14.42 (h)

Insert a new paragraph to become (h) to read as follows:

"(h) Elaborating reference documents setting up the basic concepts of multimodal transport and major issues to be dealt with in a market-oriented implementation process in order to achieve a stronger awareness of these issues,"

Paragraph 14.42 (i)

Previous paragraph 14.42 (h).

Paragraph 14.42 (j)

Previous paragraph 14.42 (i).

Paragraph 14.42 (k)

Previous paragraph 14.42 (j).

Paragraph 14.42 (l)

Insert a new paragraph to read as follows:

"(l) Increasing knowledge of laws and regulations related to maritime and multimodal standards for the purpose, inter alia, of adapting them to modern shipping, ports and multimodal transport market conditions, with a view to promoting the competitiveness and economic development of countries, in particular developing countries; and providing assistance to Governments, on request, in the formulation of national legislation, including advice on the application of international conventions adopted within UNCTAD."

Paragraph 14.43

Replace the paragraph by the following:

"In the light of the above-outlined framework, the UNCTAD secretariat will:

(a) Undertake research and prepare comparative analyses of national shipping policies and their impact on fleet development and the quality of shipping services, and on structural, technological and institutional changes in trade and transport and their impact on ports and multimodal transport operations;

(b) Study strategies and options aimed at fostering competitive shipping services, as well as possibilities of economic cooperation among developing countries in the fields of shipping, ports and multimodal transport and monitor developments in transport technology;

(c) Enhance the exchange and dissemination of relevant information in these fields and increase the knowledge of laws and regulations responding to the requirements of modern international transport conditions;

(d) Assist Governments in implementing the main findings of the above-mentioned studies and reports through the development and support of technical cooperation projects."

Paragraphs 14.44, 14.45 and 14.46 should be entirely deleted.

Paragraphs 14.47, 14.48 and 14.49 should be renumbered accordingly.

Subprogramme 6: Insurance

Paragraph 14.53 (a) (v)

In the first line, after "supervisory authorities", insert the words "in developing countries".

Paragraph 14.53 (d) (ii)

In the second line, after "supervisory capacity", insert the words "in developing countries".

Programme 23. Transnational corporations

In paragraph 23.13, eighth line, replace the words "While the original objectives of the Code are still valid" by the words "On the other hand".

In paragraph 23.15 (a), first line, replace the words "through the adoption of the Code of Conduct" by the words "through the adoption of appropriate international arrangements".

Programme 28. International drug control

Delete the designation of high priority for subprogramme 2 recommended by the Committee for Programme and Coordination in paragraph 155 (c) of part II of its report.

Programme 38. Public information

In new paragraphs 38.3, 38.7 (h) and 38.17 (m), insert the word "international" before the words "peace and security".